

# **PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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## **ABSTRACT**

English is an international language around the world. Even in Indonesia, English is widely used by many people. That is why nowadays many parents send their children to a bilingual school to learn and speak in two languages. This study was conducted to investigate on parents' attitudes toward bilingual education programs. Therefore, the question in this study is: "What were parents' attitudes toward a bilingual education program?" One hundred participants were selected from four bilingual kindergartens in Salatiga. They were parents whose children were at the age of 5 to 6 years old. A questionnaire with fourteen closed-ended items and three open-ended items was used to collect the data. The researcher presented the data into three general themes based on Bernstein's study (1991), the three components are (1) Cognitive Attitude: Parents' opinion toward Bilingual Education Program, (2) Affective Attitude: Parents' feeling toward Bilingual Education Program, and (3) Behavior Attitude: Parents' behavior toward Bilingual Education Program. The results indicate that the majority of the parents have positive attitudes toward bilingual education program. They believed that by studying in a bilingual education program, their children will be more confident, fluent in two languages and have a better future.

**Keywords:** *parents, young children, bilingual education program*